

Essence of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam

***om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya
janmādy asya yato 'nvayād itarataś cārtheṣv abhijñāḥ svarāt
tene brahma hṛdā ya ādi-kavaye muhyanti yat sūrayaḥ
tejo-vāri-mṛdām yathā vinimayo yatra tri-sargo 'mrṣā
dhāmnā svena sadā nirasta-kuhakaṁ satyaṁ param dhīmahi***
(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 1.1)

O my Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, son of Vasudeva, O all-pervading Personality of Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You. I meditate upon Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa because He is the Absolute Truth and the primeval cause of all causes of the creation, sustenance and destruction of the manifested universes. He is directly and indirectly conscious of all manifestations, and He is independent because there is no other cause beyond Him. It is He only who first imparted the Vedic knowledge unto the heart of Brahmājī, the original living being. By Him even the great sages and demigods are placed into illusion, as one is bewildered by the illusory representations of water seen in fire, or land seen on water. Only because of Him do the material universes, temporarily manifested by the reactions of the three modes of nature, appear factual, although they are unreal. I therefore meditate upon Him, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who is eternally existent in the transcendental abode, which is forever free from the illusory representations of the material world. I meditate upon Him, for He is the Absolute Truth.

***śrī-bhagavān uvāca
jñānaṁ parama-guhyam me, yad vijñāna-samanvitam
sarahasyam tad-aṅgam ca, gr̥hāṇa gaditam mayā***
(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.31)

The Personality of Godhead said: Knowledge about Me as described in the scriptures is very confidential, and it has to be realized in conjunction with devotional service. The necessary paraphernalia for that process is being explained by Me. You may take it up carefully.

***yāvān aham yathā-bhāvo, yad-rūpa-guṇa-karmakāḥ
tathaiva tattva-vijñānam, astu te mad-anugrahāt***
(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.32)

All of Me, namely My actual eternal form and My transcendental existence, color, qualities and activities—let all be awakened within you by factual realization, out of My causeless mercy.

aham evāsam evāgre, nānyad yat sad-asat param

paścād aham yad etac ca, yo 'vaśiṣyeta so 'smy aham

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.33)

Brahmā, it is I, the Personality of Godhead, who was existing before the creation, when there was nothing but Myself. Nor was there the material nature, the cause of this creation. That which you see now is also I, the Personality of Godhead, and after annihilation what remains will also be I, the Personality of Godhead.

***rte 'rtham yat pratiyeta, na pratiyeta cātmani
tad vidyād ātmano māyām, yathābhāso yathā tamaḥ***

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.34)

O Brahmā, whatever appears to be of any value, if it is without relation to Me, has no reality. Know it as My illusory energy, that reflection which appears to be in darkness.

***yathā mahānti bhūtāni, bhūteṣūccāvaceṣv anu
praviṣṭāny apraviṣṭāni, tathā teṣu na teṣv aham***

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.35)

O Brahmā, please know that the universal elements enter into the cosmos and at the same time do not enter into the cosmos; similarly, I Myself also exist within everything created, and at the same time I am outside of everything.

***etāvad eva jijñāsyam, tattva-jijñāsunātmanah
anvaya-vyatirekābhyām, yat syāt sarvatra sarvadā***

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 2.9.36)

A person who is searching after the Supreme Absolute Truth, the Personality of Godhead, must certainly search for it up to this, in all circumstances, in all space and time, and both directly and indirectly.

***nimna-gānām yathā gaṅgā, devānām acyuto yathā
vaiṣṇavānām yathā śambhuḥ, purāṇānām idam tathā***

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.13.16)

Just as the Gaṅgā is the greatest of all rivers, Lord Acyuta the supreme among deities and Lord Śambhu [Śiva] the greatest of Vaiṣṇavas, so Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is the greatest of all Purāṇas.

***nāma-saṅkīrtanam yasya, sarva-pāpa praṇāśanam
praṇāmo duḥkha-śamanas, tam namāmi harim param***

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam 12.13.23)

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Lord, Hari, the congregational chanting of whose holy names destroys all sinful reactions, and the offering of obeisances unto whom relieves all material suffering.